

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1-56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a

pressure source, the biopsy needle module having a biopsy needle, a cutting sleeve and a biopsy needle carrier to which the biopsy needle and the cutting sleeve are mounted, wherein the removable element is configured for ~~integration~~ insertion into the housing with both the pressure source and the biopsy needle carrier being substantially contained within the housing and with the pressure source and the biopsy needle ~~module~~ carrier being spaced apart within the housing, and a hollow connecting element ~~communicatively~~ coupled as a fluid coupling between the biopsy needle module and the pressure source;

wherein the biopsy device is configured to be operationally self-

contained such that an entirety of the biopsy device is capable of concurrently being both held and operated by a same single hand of a physician during a medical procedure, the biopsy device having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

58. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 57, ~~wherein the biopsy needle module comprises a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve, the biopsy needle comprising a sharpened distal end and a distal opening for collection of tissue, the cutting sleeve having a cutting blade on the distal end thereof and being coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle.~~

59. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 58, wherein the pressure source comprises a vacuum pressure-generating device having a piston/cylinder arrangement, the vacuum pressure-generating device being connected to a proximal end of the biopsy needle via [[a]] the hollow connecting element, forming an airtight connection therewith.

60. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 58, further comprising a clamping ~~earriage~~ cradle contained within the housing and a drive unit contained within the housing, the clamping cradle being connected to the drive unit.

61. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein the biopsy needle module ~~can be~~ is configured to be connected to the clamping ~~earriage~~ cradle such that the biopsy needle module is longitudinally displaceable by the clamping ~~earriage~~ cradle.

62. (cancelled)

63. (cancelled)

64. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim [[63]] 61, wherein the cutting sleeve is connected to the [[first]] drive unit, the cutting sleeve being configured to be axially movable relative to the biopsy needle.

65. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the power source comprises at least one battery.

66. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the housing comprises a lower housing segment with lateral walls of different heights, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a longitudinally displaceable locking mechanism, and a first end lid and a second end lid, each connected to the lower

housing segment, wherein the second end lid comprises a first U-shaped opening and a second U-shaped opening, wherein the first U-shaped opening is configured to receive a first portion of the removable element and the second U-shaped opening is configured to receive a second portion of the removable element.

67. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 66, further including a guide disposed on the removable element, wherein the first end lid comprises a third U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the third U-shaped opening being sized to receive the guide of the removable element.

68. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the housing includes a lower housing segment, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment, a first end lid and a second end lid, each of the first end lid and the second end lid being connected to the lower housing segment, wherein the second end lid comprises a first U-shaped opening and a second U-shaped opening, wherein the first U-shaped opening is configured to receive a first portion of the removable element and the second U-shaped opening is configured to receive a second portion of the removable element, and wherein a third portion of the removable element is located between the first U-shaped opening and the second U-shaped opening external to the housing.

69. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, further comprising a control panel attached to the housing, wherein the control panel is connected to the power source.

70. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 69, wherein the control panel is connected to a circuit board.

71. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the circuit board has a programmable microprocessor disposed thereon.

72. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the control panel comprises a control key for actuating a clamping cradle, a program key for actuating a tissue sampling procedure and a clamping key for triggering clamping of the clamping cradle.

73. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the program key is positioned between the control key and clamping key to avoid accidental actuation of the clamping cradle.

74. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein each of the keys has a light associated therewith that indicates whether the key is active.

75. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the clamping key is equipped with a delay circuit to prevent inadvertent pressing thereof.

76. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein a locking mechanism is contained within the housing to lock the clamping cradle, the locking mechanism comprising a handle having an arm, wherein the arm locks into a depression in the clamping cradle.

77. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 76, wherein the clamping cradle is comprised of a plastic material and the handle is comprised of a metal material, wherein a metal part is positioned within the depression.

78. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim [[76]] 61, wherein the clamping cradle is configured such that an actuation of the clamping cradle causes the biopsy needle to penetrate into a patient a predetermined distance.

79. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 78, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to ~~penetrate at~~ a plurality of penetration distances for the biopsy needle.

80. (withdrawn - currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim [[79]] 78, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to ~~penetrate~~ a penetration distance for the biopsy needle which is in the range between approximately 15 mm and 25 mm.

81-91. (canceled)

92-97. (canceled)

98. (currently amended) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source, wherein the housing comprises a lower

housing segment with lateral walls, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a longitudinally displaceable locking mechanism mounted to the housing lid and configured to engage a fastening device on the lower housing segment, and a first end lid and a second end lid, each of the first end lid and the second end lid being connected to the lower housing segment; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, the biopsy needle module having a biopsy needle, a cutting sleeve and a biopsy needle carrier to which the biopsy needle and the cutting sleeve are mounted, wherein the removable element is configured for ~~integration~~ insertion into the housing with both the pressure source and the biopsy needle carrier being substantially contained within the housing and with the pressure source and the biopsy needle ~~module~~ carrier being spaced apart within the housing, and a hollow connecting element ~~communicatively~~ coupled as a fluid coupling between the biopsy needle module and the pressure source;

wherein the biopsy device is configured to be operationally self-contained such that an entirety of the biopsy device can be concurrently held

and operated by a same single hand of a physician during a medical procedure, the biopsy device having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

99. (currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 98, wherein the first end lid comprises a U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the U-shaped opening sized to receive a portion of the removable element.

100. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 98, wherein the second end lid comprises a first U-shaped opening and second U-shaped opening, wherein each of the first U-shaped opening and the second U-shaped opening is configured to receive a respective portion of the removable element, with at least a portion of the hollow connecting element being located between the first U-shaped opening and the second U-shaped opening external to the housing.

101. (currently amended) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:
 a housing including a lower housing segment, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment, a first end lid, and a second end lid, each of the first end lid and the second end lid being connected to the lower housing segment, wherein the second end lid has a first U-shaped opening and a second U-shaped opening, and the first end lid has a third U-shaped opening;
 a unitary removable element including a biopsy needle module, a pressure source, and a hollow connecting element ~~communicatively~~ coupled as a fluid coupling between the biopsy needle module and the pressure source;
 the unitary removable element being configured to be mounted to the housing and received at each of the first U-shaped opening, the second U-shaped opening and the third U-shaped opening, with the pressure source being substantially contained within the housing, and with at least a portion of the hollow connecting element being external to said housing in a region between the first U-shaped opening and the second U-shaped opening to establish a fluid path

that extends between the first U-shaped opening and the second U-shaped opening external to the housing.

102. (previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 101, wherein the biopsy needle module includes a first component configured to be received by the first U-shaped opening and the pressure source includes a second component configured to be received by the second U-shaped opening.

103. (previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 102, wherein the first component is a round profile component of the biopsy needle module and the second component is a nozzle portion of the pressure source.

104. (currently amended) The biopsy device of claim 103, wherein the biopsy needle module includes a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle, the biopsy needle module further including a guide roller slidably disposed on said cutting sleeve, the guide roller being slidably received by the ~~[[first]]~~ third U-shaped opening to maintain a position of the guide roller.

105. (previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 103, wherein the biopsy needle module includes a biopsy needle configured to extend outwardly from the housing from the third U-shaped opening, and wherein the fluid path further extends within the housing through the biopsy needle module between the first U-shaped opening and the third U-shaped opening.

106. (previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 101, wherein the fluid path further extends through an interior of the housing between the first U-shaped opening and the third U-shaped opening by way of the biopsy needle module.